

## DRAFT MINUTES – March 10, 2009

The meeting was called to order by President Sharon Dooley. The minutes from the February meeting were approved with 1 correction. . The agenda was accepted.

### Public Comments

- Matt Zaborsky invited all present to attend the meeting of the Mid County Citizens Advisory Board on March 17, 2009 at Bauer Community Center. For details Matt can be contacted via the GOCA website.
- Sharon Dooley reported on the plans to discontinue the #53 Ride On bus. She mentioned that petitions were circulating for signature and that she would be testifying the following week and would like a good showing with signatures on the petitions.
- Bob Beard of the Olney Town Center Advisory Committee advised of the Olney wide clean-up scheduled for Saturday, April 18, 2009.
- Janet Terry of the Olney Farmers and Artists Market informed the meeting that there were plans for some new vendors for the upcoming season including a mosaic artist. The Market was expecting to open May 10, 2009 and run every Sunday through November 2009. The Sunday prior to opening the market was proposing to host a kick off including a wine tasting and foods prepared by local chefs.
- Roy Peck advised of the difficulties he was having in securing a date for the daffodil dig along 97. He also explained the stonewalling he was receiving from State Highways to his request for the sediment and erosion drawings.
- Bob Masters and his son Jordan Masters passed out brochures for the Green Energy Cooperative and were hoping that businesses and homeowners would join in the effort to go Green. They mentioned that the new Cashell Elementary School was being built green where possible. Bob Masters also reported the availability of grants for solar energy. Bob Masters and Arnie Gordon of the Civic Federation planned to keep in contact on this via email.

### SPECIAL PRESENTATION

**Future Growth Policy Development** – Sharon Dooley welcomed County Planning Board Chair, Royce Hanson and County Planner, Rollin Stanley to discuss their future growth policy development plans. Mr. Hanson noted that only 4% of undeveloped land remained and that the County had to look to different planning ideas using empty shopping centers and building up. Mr. Hanson stated that there were 106 old unused shopping centers in the county and 8000 acres of surface parking lots currently not being used. Mr. Hanson said that we should look at where we should grow and how we should grow rather than where we shouldn't grow. He would like to see future growth near transit so that car usage could be lessened. He said that the buzz word in planning was sustainability and that he was hoping the plans could be proposed to the County Council in June 2009 for a vote in November 2009.

Rollin Stanley presented a video and explained the growth that they would like to see. Traffic is never improving so Mr. Stanley reiterated Mr. Hanson's comments about looking at different planning ideas. He showed where in California rooftops had been sold for solar panels and the resulting fees going to local government to spend on items such as more classrooms. Mr. Stanley noted in reply to questions that churches needed to be taught to think differently and how they can best serve their community. Mr. Stanley showed video of communities in the Pacific Northwest where there were central gardens, stores and homes were built up and all were close to major transit. He told the meeting how he lives in Silver Spring and that he had driven his car for the first time in three weeks that night to attend our GOCA meeting and that he walks everywhere and uses public transportation.

Mr. Stanley and Mr. Hanson endorsed the proposal for a Bus Rapid Transport Systems saying that it was a great idea and one that could grow. They also stated how important it was to the budget to move in that direction.

They ended their presentation by informing those present that Olney and Damascus had been identified as satellite communities and thanked GOCA for the opportunity to come and present their plans.

**OFFICERS/COMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS****Treasurer's Report:**

Roy reported that prior to the meeting tonight on March 10, 2009 there was \$7081.17 in the checking account. We had paid half of the amount due for fireworks and paid \$600.08 for an outstanding bill and the current balance reflected these payments.

**Corresponding Secretary's Report:**

There was one item of interest. The Greater Olney Sandy Spring Green Space meeting was scheduled for March 31, 2009 at Friends House and all were invited to attend.

**Chamber of Commerce Report:**

Joe Buffington advised the applications were due on 4/27/09 for the Our House Lions Club Humanitarian of the Year scholarship and that details could be found on the Chamber of Commerce website including information on the additional component for children who are learning disabled.

**Town Center Advisory Report:**

Helene Rosenheim reported that a group had gone to Annapolis and had met with state delegation representatives for District 14 and 19. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the Town Center Advisory group to the delegation and explain what the group was all about and to take advantage of the recession to get things in place for the future so that the delegation would be in a position to ask for funds. The Town Center Advisory group was also planning to meet with Montgomery County Council members in the near future. Helene stated that beginning with the group's March 2009 meeting they would be having their meetings at the Buffington RE/MAX Community Room and not at the Library. The meeting is the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month.

**Civic Federation Report:**

Arnie Gordon advised that by an almost unanimous vote the Civic Federation voted to endorse bill HB1210 proposed by Al Carr. The bill states that if a person in a supermarket requests a bag, either paper or plastic, they would have to pay between 2c – 5c per bag fee. 1c would go to the supermarket or store and the remaining money to the Chesapeake Bay Fund. The purpose of this is to keep the environment as green as possible. Reusing bags would be green, would reduce the use of petroleum and would in the end keep the environment safer for people, birds and animals.

Arnie Gordon informed us that the Planning Advisory Panel had been appointed by Mr. Hanson who we had heard from earlier in the evening. Upon reading the list of names it was very clear that besides the 6 residents of communities and one or possibly two others, the panel was made up of largely those who are pro development and these would be the people responsible for writing the zoning proposal on future growth. Arnie also stated that he would have available at the next GOCA meeting Xerox copies of a response that had been written to the proposal outlined by Mr. Hanson and Mr. Stanley.

**Membership Report:**

Matt reported that year to date as of this meeting we had collected \$1625.00 in dues and \$800.00 in fireworks contributions. Dues had been received in the last month from Christie Estates HOA, Lake Hallowell HOA, Norbeck Hills HOA and Tanterra HOA.

**Transportation Report:**

In Dave Eskenazi's absence Roy Peck gave an overview of a meeting held on February 18, 2009. The meeting focused mainly on sound barriers. There was some discussion of the flood plain and storm water drainage but there seemed to be no real plan in place. Roy Peck again mentioned the usage of salt and how this will ultimately lead to lead in the water supply making the children in our schools the most vulnerable. Paul Jarosinski of Cherrywood HOA asked that the minutes reflect that Odessa of State Highways had not produced the information he had requested at the GOCA meeting on February 13, 2009. At that meeting Odessa had promised Mr. Jarosinski publicly that at the meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> would provide him with information that he was requesting specifically the traffic numbers. Odessa did not provide the information on the 18<sup>th</sup> and as of our meeting tonight had still not furnished Mr. Jarosinski with the requested information.

**President's Report:**

Sharon Dooley noted that she would be testifying at a public forum on March 24, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. in the Cafeteria of the County Executive Building at 101 Monroe Street on the proposed cancellation of bus route #53. This bus is one of 15 routes planned to be discontinued or have its routing redesigned. Sharon asked that if others wanted to testify that they sign up by email by March 17, 2009.

A letter had been received regarding the High property and that it had been decided to change this from 24 to 19 units with sizes of approximately 5,000 – 10,000 square feet lots.

We had been informed that there was a change being made to the lighting at the Reserve at Fairhill but there were no details available to us.

GOCA had been asked to take a stand on the proposed church coming in on Emory Church Road. It was hoped that a delegation from the church could come to a future GOCA meeting along with members of SEROCA so that GOCA could make an educated decision on the position it would take.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **2008 GOCA Awards Ceremony**

Ron Berger reported on a successful event. There was a good turnout from the community, local elected officials and GOCA representatives. Ron praised Sharon Dooley on her research of the award recipients so that her comments to each were meaningful and well planned. Ron had received several positive comments about the success of the event and looked forward to doing the same again next year.

### **2009 Olney Days**

Helene Rosenheim outlined the Olney Days weekend schedule. Olney Days is May 15-17, 2009, the weekend prior to Memorial Weekend. This year there will be no Home Run contest but instead a Frisbee Contest. It was also hoped to have a pancake race similar to the one held in our sister city Olney, England on Shrove Tuesday. Helene was looking for somebody to chair or spearhead the Mr. and Mrs. Olney competition on Friday. There was a committee in place but nobody had stepped forward to be the chair or point person for the committee. If anybody at the meeting knows of somebody who would be willing to do this they should let Helene know. Volunteers were always needed for all the events – the Mr. and Mrs. Olney contest, the Funfair and Fireworks on Saturday, the Car and Truck Show on Sunday, the parade on Sunday and the Band Concert on Sunday evening. If anybody would like to volunteer they need to let Helene know.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- No official letters had been received but it was noted that 108 was in the process of being painted.
- The Olney Loop is still being produced by Lisa even though she is now longer a Vice President. Streaming video should be up and running by June and old programs will be archived.
- Sharon made a plea for help with set up and take down of the Farmers Market. Unfortunately the market could not offer SSL hours to students as it was still in the process of becoming an official organization for SSL hours but the market was hoping for volunteers to do this out of the kindness of their hearts.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Wilen

Lori Wilen, Recording Secretary

## **PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE:**

Cary Lamari; Arnold Gordon (Norbeck Meadows); Ruth Laughner (Williamsburg Village); Terri Hogan (Gazette); Ron Berger (Norbeck Meadows); Jim Haddow (Hallowell); Lisa Stancik (Homeland Village); Bob Masters (Dubarry Lane); Jordan Masters (Dubarry Lane); Jackie Benn (Fair Hill Farm); Danny Benn (Fair Hill Farm); Janet Terry (James Creek); Carol Sullivan (Cherrywood); Paul Jarosinski (Cherrywood); Charles Kuebler (James Creek); Dennis Twonbly (Olney Mill); Brad Branch (Olney Mill); David Reile (SEROCA/ENCAN); Joe Buffington (Olney Chamber of Commerce); Astrid Pages (James Creek); Dale Tibbitts (Council Member Marc Elrich staff); Claire Iseli (District 4 Council Office); Barbara Facigno (Olney Oaks); Walter Lee (Townes); Tom Smith (Friends of Ben Kramer); Cindy Craven (Friends of Ben Kramer); Pam Saul (Sen. Rona Kramer); Diane Bessette (Fair Hill Farm); Helene Rosenheim (MCRSC); Roy Peck (GOCA); Matt Zaborsky (Norbeck Meadows); Sharon Dooley (James Creek); Lori Wilen (Cherrywood)

There was another sign-in sheet that was not returned to the Recording Secretary at the end of the meeting and clean-up.

